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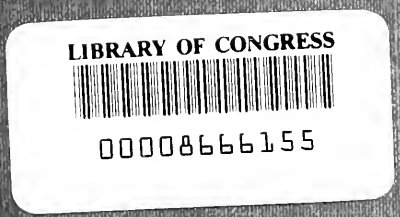
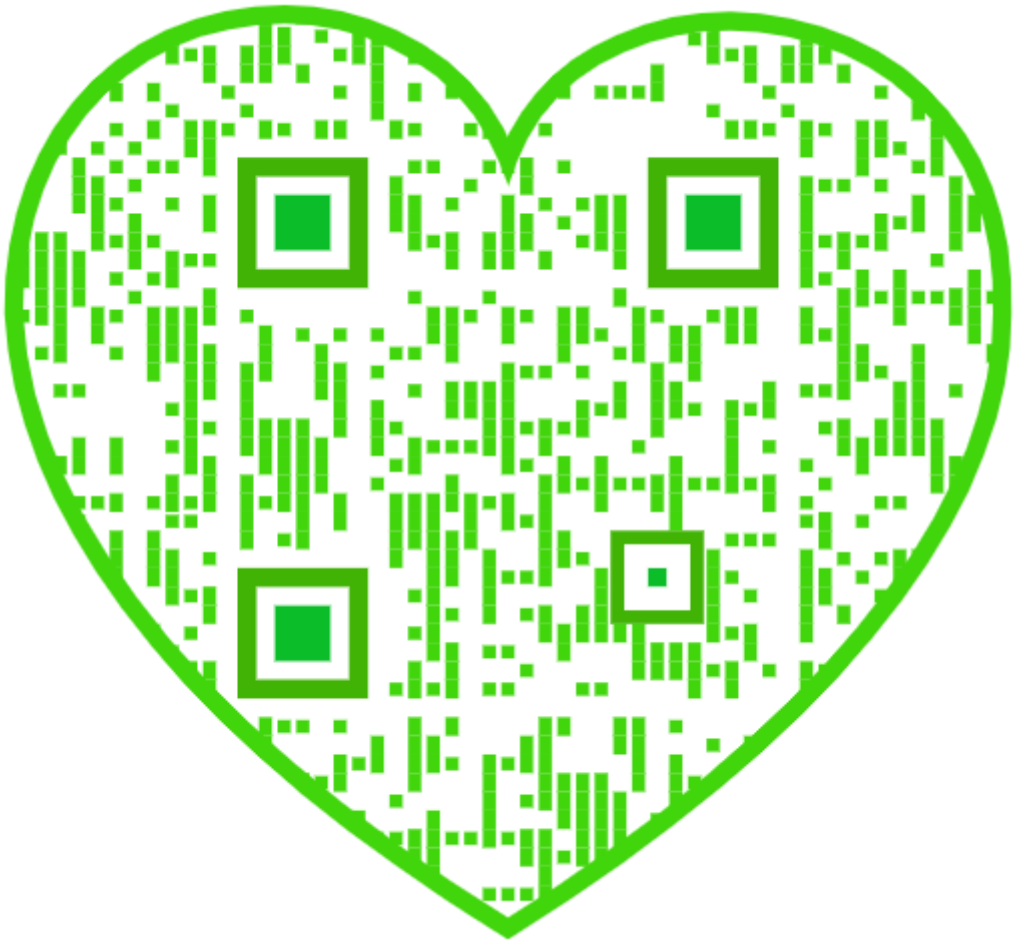




FIRST INSPIRATIONS OF COLUMBUS. — *By Giulio Monteverde. In the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.*

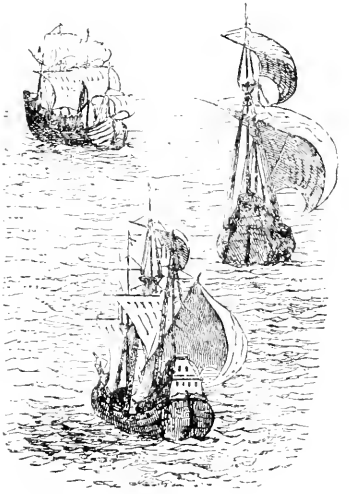
# THE ADVENTURES OF COLUMBUS

## EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

## FOR CHILDREN

BY

MRS F A HUMPHREY



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# THE ADVENTURES OF COLUMBUS.

## HOW THE NORTHMEN CAME TO AMERICA.

In 1002, four hundred and thirty years before Christopher Columbus was born, Lief, the son of Eric, started on a voyage of discovery. He was a hardy Norwegian, who lived in Greenland.

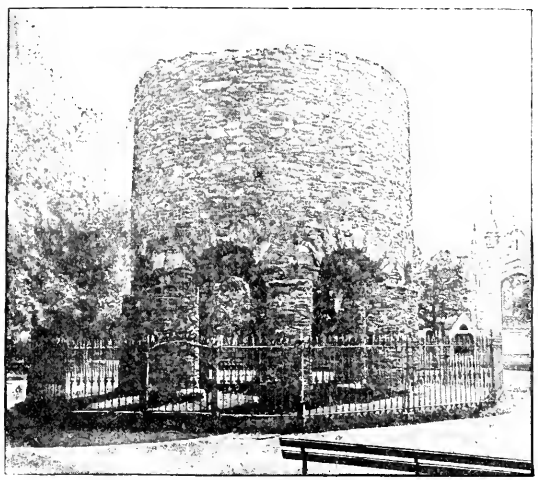
His ship was a queer little vessel, sometimes moved by sails, and sometimes by oars. But it was tight and strong. He had twenty-five men, and he sailed away southwesterly. It was early summer, but he met many icebergs, just as our vessels now do.

The first land he came to was flat and stony near the sea. Farther inland, were high mountains with snow on their tops. This land was what is now called Labrador. Still sailing on towards the south, they by-and-by came to a flat country. This flat country had vast forests, and was what is now called Newfoundland. Here they cast anchor and went on shore, and feasted upon the sweet berries they found growing in abundance.

But they were not content to stop here, and so sailed on still farther south and southwesterly till they came to another and far different land.

This land had pretty green hills covered with trees, wild plums and berries grew here. The climate was soft, and there were song-birds and plenty of squirrels. They liked the look of this land so well, they sought along the shore for a harbor, and finally found one at the mouth of a river, where the tide swept in. Here were salmon and wild deer. A young German

boy of the company wandered away one day and, when found, was eating delicious grapes, such as grew in his own German fatherland. The grapes were so abundant, Lief named the country Vinland. The company built huts and stayed in Vinland during that winter. At first the days and nights were about the same length. Then the days shortened and the sun rose at half-past seven, and set at half-past four.



THE OLD MILL AT NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND.

In the spring Lief went back to Greenland, and his brother Thorwald bought his vessel and sailed for Vinland. Thorwald and his men passed the winter in the same huts where Lief and his men had staid the winter before. When summer came they began to explore, and one day they saw some dusky men, the first human beings they had found. These dusky men were timid and ran away, but Thorwald's men caught some of them and cruelly put them to death. This made these dusky Indians angry, and they made an attack upon the Northmen and Thorwald was killed. Vinland means Wine-land.

The next summer Thorfin, a young Norwegian nobleman, came to Vinland with his beautiful bride, Gudfrida. These came with five other women, and a number of men. They lived three years in Vinland, and then Thorfin and Gudfrida returned to Norway, carrying specimens of the furs and fruits of this new country. Some of Thorfin's people staid behind and were joined by about

thirty more from Greenland. Among this thirty was Freydisa, sister of Lief. She was such a bad-hearted, deceitful woman, her family hoped she would always stay in Vinland, and never come back to Greenland. But she stirred up such strife, and set the colony so by the ears, she had to flee back to Greenland to save her life. And this is about all we know about the colony of Vinland. It became extinct, but just how, nobody knows. What I have told you is found in the chronicles of Iceland.

Historians differ as to how far these Northmen sailed along the shores of America. Some think Lief went as far as what is now Rhode Island, and that the old stone mill at Newport is the remains of a tower built by the Northmen. This tower is round and rests on seven columns. Its foundation stones are wrought spheres.

Others say that the Northmen did not get any further than Labrador, and I suppose we shall never know the exact truth about it.

## BIRTH AND BOYHOOD OF COLUMBUS.

About the year 1435, a little boy was born in the city of Genoa, in Italy. Genoa is still a lovely city — a city of palaces. Back of it are high rugged mountains, and in front of it, lying at its feet, is the blue, tideless Mediterranean Sea. Its streets are narrow and steep.

But in 1435, when this little boy was born, Genoa was not only a lovely city, but a very rich one. It had a great many ships, which sailed to all parts of the world; that is, to all parts of the world that the Genoese knew anything about. For America was then unknown to the people of Europe. They did not know that across the Atlantic Ocean lay this big continent of ours. They knew something about Asia, and the East Indies. They traded with the East Indies. But they brought all their silks, and their spices, and other precious things by way of the Gulf of Persia, and various rivers, to the Mediterranean Sea. They did not know there was an easier way to get there, by sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, at the southern point of Africa.

They did not dare to sail very far south. They noticed that it grew warmer as they sailed south, and they thought if they kept on, by and by they would come to where the water of the ocean would boil!

But, as I said, Genoa was then a very rich and lovely city and there this little boy was born. His name was Christofo Colombo. That is his Italian name. In Spanish history he is

called Cristoval Colon, and we know him as Christopher Columbus, the great discoverer of America.

Yes, the great Columbus was once a wee baby just as we all have been, and, I have no doubt, cried just as all babies do, and ate and slept, and cooed, and kicked, till, by and by, he grew into a big boy of six.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. (*From an old print.*)

His parents were poor. His father was a wool-comber. For a little time Colombo was the only child, but after awhile, two little brothers and a sister came into the home-nest, which was then pretty well crowded.

But though the parents of Colombo were poor, they managed to give him a good education. He was taught to read and to write, and he wrote so good a hand. Las Casas tells us, that he might have earned his bread by writing. Las Casas was a historian who knew all about that, for he owned some of Columbus' manuscripts.

He was also taught arithmetic, drawing and designing, and in course of time, grammar and Latin. But the study he seemed to enjoy most was geography, and he had a great desire to go to sea. So his wise father concluded that if his little son wished to follow a maritime life, that is, to go to sea, for the purpose

of trade or of discovery, he must be properly fitted for it, and he sent him to the famous University of Pavia, in Lombardy. There he was taught not only geography, but geometry, astronomy, and navigation. And he studied hard, just as boys are apt to study the things they like.

He was at Pavia only a short time, but he made good use of that time, and, afterwards, as he grew up to big boyhood and to manhood, he kept right on studying; in fact, I suppose he never stopped studying so long as he lived, which is the right way to do if a boy or girl wishes to be really successful in life.

We do not know exactly how old Colombo was when he came back from Pavia to his father's house in Genoa. But he must have been still very young, as, according to his own account, he was only fourteen when he entered upon his maritime life.

Between the time that he left Pavia until he began to go to sea, he helped his father at wool-combing. But we can easily imagine that this wide-awake, earnest boy, spent a good deal of time at the busy wharves of Genoa, watching the coming and going of the richly-ladened, queer vessels of those days, and talking with the sailors about the unknown and distant countries he so much wished to see. For wharves are very fascinating places to most boys, and certainly must have been to one so fond of geography as was Colombo.

Very early he must have begun to wonder about this big world of ours. Giulio Montevede, in his statue, "The First Inspirations of Columbus," represents him as a mere lad, busy with thoughts concerning that unknown land which he thinks must lie beyond the wide Atlantic Ocean.

COLUMBUS AND HIS SONS DIEGO AND FERDINAND.
*From an old print.*

## COLUMBUS IN LISBON.

In 1470 Columbus went to Lisbon, the capital of Portugal.

He was then thirty-five, but his hair was already white with care and trouble. He was a tall and dignified man, courteous to every one, and especially gentle and kindly in his own household. He is said to have had a quick temper, but he early learned to control that quick temper.

He married and settled in Lisbon. The father of his wife had been a distinguished navigator, and all his papers — his charts and the journals of his voyages — were given to Columbus. He studied these carefully. At the same time he made maps and charts to support his family, for he was poor. Notwithstanding his own poverty, he helped his aged father who continued to live in Genoa, and gave money for the education of his younger brothers.

From time to time he voyaged down the coast of Guinea and made a trip in 1477 to Iceland.

He read the works of Marco Polo. Marco Polo was a Venetian traveller who had visited Cathay (China) and Cipango (Japan). He told marvellous stories about the riches of these countries. They abounded, he said, in gold and precious stones, and the palace of the King of Japan was covered with plates of gold, instead of lead, as in other lands.

The works of Marco Polo had been translated into many languages, and were in manuscript, because the art of printing was

not then in general use. It was not an easy matter to get these works, but Columbus got them, and read them eagerly, and he longed to see these wonderful lands. As he read and studied, and thought, he became sure that, by sailing directly west, he should reach first the island of Cipango (Japan) and then Cathay (China).

And this was what all the wise men of that day thought, that the world was much smaller than it really is, and that the Atlantic Ocean, only, lay between the western coast of Europe and the eastern coast of Asia.

Prince Henry of Portugal had thought to reach India by sailing round Africa, but he died in 1473, before this was accomplished. Columbus thought that a shorter way than this would be directly west.

This Prince Henry was a great and good man, and as eager for discovery as was Columbus His nephew John II. was king of Portugal, when Columbus finally made up his mind to ask the Crown of Portugal to fit out a fleet of vessels to make a voyage of discovery across the Atlantic.

King John was eager to find a passage by sea to India, but he was not so ready to listen to Columbus as the latter had hoped.

He gave Columbus audience and listened attentively to what he had to say, but referred the matter to a "junto," or company of learned men. These learned men discouraged the king from attempting the voyage. They thought the idea of reaching India by sailing west was nonsense. But the king, still doubting, called together his council and laid Columbus' proposal before them. They too advised the king not to enter upon the undertaking. But seeing him still dissatisfied they proposed to him to do a truly mean thing.

It was to fit out a vessel secretly in the direction pointed out by Columbus, and see if anything came of it. The king listened to this mean counsel, and the vessel was fitted out. They asked Columbus to give them a plan of his proposed route, and to bring to them his charts, pretending they only wanted to examine them. But they gave them into the hands of the captain of the vessel, with orders to follow the course marked out on Columbus' chart.

The vessel sailed. But storms arose, and the crew were afraid when they saw the great tumbling waves of the wide Atlantic before them, and not a bit of land, and quickly put back to Lisbon.

When Columbus heard of this mean trick of King John, he was very angry and would have nothing more to say to him, although the king would like to have talked the matter over with him again. His wife had died and he left Lisbon near the end of 1484, taking his son Diego with him.

Said Columbus to his son Diego, when writing to him about his brother Ferdinand, and telling him always to love and cling to him, "for ten brothers would not be too many for you; I have never found better friends on my right hand and on my left, than my brothers."

So we often find, in the life of Columbus, mention made of his brothers, especially of his brother Bartholomew.

When Columbus left Lisbon, he sent his brother Bartholomew to Henry VII. of England, to propose that he should furnish vessels for the discovery of the Indies at the West. At the same time Columbus himself made a similar proposal to the Republic of Genoa. But neither proposal was accepted.

The next we hear from Columbus he was in Spain. One day, a stranger on foot stopped at the gate of the convent, La Rabida, in the province of Andalusia, and asked for food for his little boy. The two were dusty and weary with travel. They were poor, or they would not have been asking for food and shelter in this way. They asked only for bread and water.

While the porter was giving them the bread, the prior or head of the convent chanced to go by. You have read that Columbus was a tall and dignified man, of courteous manners, and you will not be surprised to learn that this prior was pleased with his appearance, and stopped to speak with him. Doubtless he was surprised, too, to see such a man so destitute.

This prior was a man of much learning. He lived not far from the port of Palos and knew all about the various voyages of discovery that had been made. So he was greatly interested when he learned Columbus' errand, for Columbus had come to apply to the court of Spain for help to carry out his plans.

QUEEN ISABELLA OF SPAIN.

This prior's name was Juan Perez de la Marchena, and from that time to the end of his life he was a firm friend to Columbus.

At this time, 1486, Ferdinand and Isabella were king and queen of Spain. Ferdinand was king of Arragon, and Isabella was queen of Castile, and by their marriage these two kingdoms had become one. But they had separate councils, and each conducted the affairs of his or her kingdom.

Writers who lived at that time, have told us many charming things about Queen Isabella. "She was the noblest creature that ever reigned over men," says one. She was fair, and her hair was auburn. Her clear blue eyes were honest and loving, and she was a "model of modesty and integrity." Our own Washington Irving, who wrote a life of Columbus, says she is one of the "purest and most beautiful characters in history."

And it was to this beautiful and gracious queen that Colum-

COLUMBUS AND HIS SON DIEGO AT THE DOOR OF THE CONVENT, LA RABIDA.

bus was now to make his proposals for a voyage of discovery. Juan Perez gave him a letter of introduction to one of the chief men of her court, and Columbus, leaving his son Diego with the good prior, went to Cordova where the king and queen were.

They were engaged, at that time, in a war with the Moors. The Moors had held possession of the southern part of Spain for eight hundred years, and the Spaniards wished to drive them back into Africa. So when Columbus reached Cordova, he found the city full of soldiers, and the court was like a military camp.

Queen Isabella often went with her army, and, like her soldiers, wore armor at such times.

(Several suits of armor worn by Isabella, can be seen to-day, together with her sword, in the royal arsenal at Madrid.)

It was a bad time for Columbus to make his proposals, for everybody, including the king and queen, was thinking only of war. When the king was away with the army, Isabella was busy sending him troops and supplies. They were continually moving from place to place, and as Columbus was poor, he could not follow them. He supported himself, as he had done before, in making maps and charts, while the good Juan Perez took care of and educated his son Diego.

At last he was summoned before the king. Ferdinand listened to what he had to say, and then turned the matter over, as King John did, to a conference of wise men. This conference was held at Salamanca, the great seat of learning, then, in Spain. These learned men were some of them professors of astronomy, geography, and other sciences. They were learned priests and friars. And before them Columbus stood up in his poor, plain dress, and told his story.

The wise men of Salamanca listened to what Columbus had to say. A few believed as he did. But others laughed.

"The world round!" some of them said, "we don't believe it is, and even if it were, how, if you sailed down under it, could you ever get back again up hill?"

They were wise in many things, but, as you see, they knew but little about our world.

And so the conference came to nothing, and Columbus waited and waited, for seven long years. At last he said he would wait no longer. Nobody would listen to him. The king and queen were thinking only of war. "When the war is over," they said, "we will see what we can do for you." The followers of the court laughed at him. Even the little children pointed at him, as he passed, and called him a "madman." Yes, he would go away from Spain to France whose king had written to him that he would help him.

So he went down to the convent of La Rabida to tell his good friend, Juan Perez, what he was going to do. He came to the convent gate, weary, hungry and poor, as he did at first. And the good Juan Perez's heart ached when he saw him.

But when he heard what Columbus was going to do, he said, "That must not be. Spain must not lose the glory of the great discovery. We must try once more what we can do." And he wrote to Queen Isabella himself such a letter, that she

COLUMBUS BEFORE THE WISE MEN OF SALAMANCA.

replied at once, asking Don Perez to come to her, and tell her once more what it was Columbus wished to do.

Don Perez was so glad when he got this letter that he lost not a moment, but mounted his mule, and started at midnight for Santa Fé, where the queen and court were. He succeeded; and Queen Isabella sent again for Columbus.

JUAN PEREZ, AT MIDNIGHT, ON HIS WAY TO SANTA FE.

But at the very last, once more she hesitated. It was not strange that she did so. King Ferdinand did not look favorably on Columbus. Had he had his way, Columbus would have been sent away for good. Besides there was no money. The war had used up the money of both Castile and Arragon. But it was only for a brief time that Queen Isabella hesitated, and then she said, as such a generous, noble queen would say, "I undertake the enterprise for my own kingdom of Castile, and I will pledge my private jewels to raise the necessary funds."

The port of Palos in Andalusia was the place fixed upon from which to fit out the vessels. There were three: the *Niña*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria*. Two of these were small, of a kind called caravels. They were not decked over, but were built

QUEEN ISABELLA OF SPAIN IN HER ARMOR.

high at either end with cabins which looked like houses, or castles.

At first Columbus could not get even these three small vessels. The king and queen had ordered the town of Palos to furnish two of these vessels. But it refused. Nobody was willing to risk a vessel, and nobody was willing to go on such a voyage. But the sovereigns issued a second order to have ships seized, and masters and crews forced to serve.

Then arose a great hue and cry in Palos. The most dreadful stories were told about those unknown seas and lands whither they were to sail. The people of Palos went from house to house and talked about it just as people now talk about things.

"O," said the women, "if our husbands and sons go they will never come back. They will be swallowed up by the fearful waves, or by creatures more cruel than the waves." So, you may see, there was a great outcry about the voyage in Palos.

One navigator, however, who lived in Palos, Alonzo Pinzon, a man of courage, said he was ready to go, and to risk both himself and his money. He thought Columbus would come out all right, and would find the country he was going to seek. So he and his brother furnished one vessel and part of the rest. Alonzo Pinzon was made captain of the *Pinta* and his brother Vicente Yañez Pinzon captain of the *Niña*. The *Santa Maria*, the largest vessel, and the only one decked, was the flag ship, and Columbus himself was its captain.

Columbus was fifty-six years of age when he set sail from Palos with the *Pinta*, the *Niña* and the *Santa Maria*. They sailed August, 1492, and the mothers, wives and children of the men went down to the wharves to bid them "good-by" with many tears, for they never expected to see them return.

On the third day out, the rudder of the *Pinta* was found to be broken, and they put in to the Canary Islands. There they staid three weeks till a new one could be made. As they sailed past the island of Teneriffe the sailors were terrified at sight of its volcanoes sending forth fire and smoke. But Columbus told them all about volcanoes, and calmed their fears. And so he had to keep explaining things to them, for as soon as they lost sight of the Canary Islands they were full of fears at every new thing.

They had heard of the Canary Islands. European vessels often visited these islands. But of the ocean beyond they knew nothing. To them it was a wide waste of unknown waters. They feared its storms, its rocks, its shoals, and the dreadful creatures which they thought lived in it. Many of these truly brave men cried aloud when the last bit of land disappeared in the east, and they thought of the dear friends they had left. Brave as they were, they had not the courage and faith of Columbus. *He* was a happy man when he saw the last faint land-line disappear; for he had now entered upon that voyage for which he had worked and waited for eighteen years.

September 6 they set sail from the Canaries, and on September 11, they fell in with part of a wreck. The sight of this wreck filled the crew with fear. September 14, however, they thought there were signs of land. A heron hovered about the ships, a bird which they supposed never flew far from land.

On and on the three ships sailed, until they came within the influence of what are called the "Trade Winds." The soft air and the beautiful skies made them think of their beloved Andalusia. They began to see patches of weeds, such as grow in rivers, green, too, as if it had not been long since they were washed down into the ocean. A pretty white tropical bird came to greet them.

The crew watched eagerly for land. Ferdinand and Isabella had promised to the man who should first discover it a pension of thirty crowns. On the 18th Alonzo Pinzon thought he saw land at the north, but it proved to be fog on the horizon.

The sailors began to grow uneasy. The favorable wind, that had borne them so far towards the west, they began to fear would not allow them to return again. On the 20th, however, a contrary breeze sprung up, and they felt better. That day birds flew about the vessel, such as live only in groves and orchards. They came singing in the morning, and went away at night.

Next there came a calm, and the ocean was covered with weeds as far as the eye could reach. The men were frightened again. They thought they were coming upon sunken land, where the vessels would get aground, and could never be got off again, and they would have to stay there and die.

The calm was broken by a great swell of the ocean, and then they felt better again. At last, however, they began to talk seriously of a mutiny against Columbus. He was a madman, they said. Some of them even proposed to throw him into the sea and then return to Spain, and tell the king and queen that he had tumbled overboard while gazing at the stars!

Columbus knew what was going on, but he spoke soothingly to the men, and promised a doublet of velvet in addition to the thirty crowns to whoever should first see land. September 25 Alonzo Pinzon shouted from his vessel, "Land! land! Señor, I claim my reward." But Alonzo Pinzon was again mistaken.

October 7 Columbus changed his course. Up to that time he had sailed directly west. But he had noticed flocks of birds coming from and going back to the southwest. He determined to follow in the track of those birds. On the evening of October 11 he went up on top of the castle to watch for land. There had been many signs of land that day — a branch of thorn with berries on it, a piece of a tree, a carved staff. How eager, how anxious, how full of hope was Columbus! At ten o'clock he saw a light. It moved from side to side, and up and down. He called to two of his gentlemen to come and look. They, too, saw the light. At two o'clock in the morning, a gun from the *Pinta* gave the welcome signal of land, and they took in sail and lay to, waiting for daylight.

## COLUMBUS MAKES HIS FIRST LANDING IN THE NEW WORLD.

You may be sure that, at the first dawn of day, Columbus, his officers and his crew were on deck for a look at the new-found land. And a beautiful land it was, a green and level island, covered with trees like an orchard or park. The date of its discovery was October 12, 1492.

There were people on the island, a dusky people unlike any the Spaniards had ever seen.

Columbus at once ordered the boats to be manned. He put on his finest dress of scarlet, took the flag of Castile and Arragon in his hand and stepped on board his boat. Alonzo Pinzon and his brother followed in their boats. Each carried the flag of the Expedition. On this flag was a green cross having on each side the letters F and Y the initials of Ferdinand and Ysabel.

COLUMBUS KNELT AND GAVE THANKS TO GOD.

As soon as Columbus landed he knelt, kissed the ground, and gave thanks to God for his success. The rest knelt around him.

Then he arose to his feet, drew his sword, and took possession of the island in the name of the Spanish Sovereigns. He named this island San Salvador.

The king and queen had promised Columbus *that he should be*

TAKING POSSESSION OF THE ISLAND IN THE NAME OF THE SPANISH SOVEREIGNS.

*viceroy and admiral over all lands he should discover.* So he next called around him his officers and crew to take the oath of obedience to him as Admiral.

The natives watched these proceedings with curiosity. Early in the morning they had seen with fear these monsters —for such they called the vessels — hovering on their huge white wings about their island. They crowded down to the shore to get a nearer view. But, when they saw the boats filled with strange beings drawing near, they had fled in terror to the woods.

THE NATIVES SWIM OUT AND BRING GIFTS.

When they found, however, that these strange beings did not follow them, but went quietly about their own business, they took courage, and came out from their hiding places. They saw with wonder the white skins of the Spaniards, their beards, their gay clothes, and their shining armor. Growing still bolder, they went up to these strange beings, touched their wonderful clothes and faces, and took their white hands in theirs.

Columbus was pleased with their gentleness, and told his men to let them gratify their curiosity. He treated them with such kindness they began to think these vessels had come straight from the skies, on their white wings, and that these strange and terrible, but beautiful beings, were the inhabitants of the skies!

You may remember, that Columbus thought when he sailed west that he should reach some part of the East Indies. So he named these people Indians.

He gave them colored caps, glass beads, and hawks' bells. They hung the strings of beads about their necks, and jingled the bells. The Spaniards staid all that day on this green island, refreshing themselves after their long voyage.

The next morning the shore was thronged with the natives. When the boats again put off many came out to meet them in their light canoes hollowed from trees. Some swam out, bringing gifts of parrots, balls of cotton, and cakes of bread called *cassava*. Some of them wore ornaments of gold in their noses.

Columbus staid a few days at this island, which is one of the Bahamas, and then began a cruise among the other islands of this group. Everywhere the natives received them with kindness, bringing them cotton, and exchanging their few ornaments of gold for beads and hawks' bells. For the Spaniards were greedy for gold.

These people lived in tents made of branches of trees and covered with palm leaves. These tents were built under the shelter of the beautiful trees, and were neatly kept by the women. They slept in a kind of cotton net, slung between two posts, which nets they called *hamacs*. Did you ever see a *hamac?*

Among these islands was one, most beautiful of all, to which Columbus gave the name of "Isabella." "I know not," he says "where first to go, nor are my eyes ever weary of gazing on this beautiful verdure. Here are large lakes, and the groves about them are marvellous, and here and in all the islands everything is green, and the herbage as in April in Andalusia. The singing of the birds is such, that it seems as if one would never desire to depart thence."

The next island Columbus found was Cuba. When he saw this great island he was sure he had found Japan (Cipango). As he sailed along its shores he sent a boat on shore, now and then, to ask the natives about that splendid city wherein dwelt the king in his palace covered with gold. Afterwards he thought that this island was not an island at all, but a continent — the Continent of Asia. And to the day of his death he always thought so. The air was so spicy he was sure the Spice Islands lay somewhere near. He saw on this island of Cuba a canoe hollowed from a tree, so big that it would hold one hundred and fifty persons. He found in an empty house — for the people fled when they saw the Spaniards coming — a cake of wax. This he took to send to the Spanish sovereigns, "for where there is wax," said he, "there must be a thousand other good things."

After Cuba, he next found Hayti; and what a lovely time he must have had sailing over those summer seas and finding green and flowery islands, peopled with a gentle, friendly race. Hurricanes often blow in the West Indies, but Columbus does not seem to have met with any. In the rivers of Hayti they found fish like those of Spain. They heard birds which they thought were nightingales — birds which live in Spain. The country they thought looked like the more beautiful parts of Spain, and so they named the island Hispaniola, which means Little Spain.

Here, as elsewhere, the people fled in terror when they saw the Spaniards. But the Indians whom Columbus had with him followed

them and quieted their fears. They told them that these people had come down from the skies to bring beautiful gifts.

THE DREADFUL LIZARD.

On this island the *Santa Maria* was wrecked on the morning of Christmas day, 1492. Columbus usually stayed on deck at night because there was great danger in coasting along these unknown

shores. But that night he was so tired, and the sea was so calm, he thought he might safely rest a while. He gave orders to the steersman not to give the helm in charge to a ship boy. But no sooner had the admiral gone than the steersman did that very thing, and the vessel was carried by the currents on to a sand bar.

This wreck took place not far from the home of the chief Guacanagari, who proved to be a good friend. He sent his canoes and men to help the Spaniards to unload the vessel. He ordered a guard to be kept over their goods after they were brought on shore, and nothing was stolen. The chief invited Columbus to visit him and gave him a feast of fruits and fish. He ordered his people to dance before him to cheer him. He tried to cheer him all he could for the loss of the *Santa Maria*.

Columbus told Guacanagari he would protect him from his enemies, the Caribs. He ordered a cannon on board the *Niña* to be fired off. When the natives saw the flash and heard the roar they were frightened. They saw how the big ball tore the trees. But they were glad too. They said, "These wonderful beings have brought their thunder and lightning from the skies and will protect us from the Caribs."

During all these cruisings from island to island, the Spaniards had seen no wild beasts. But they had seen a fearful creature with spines on its back, a pouch under its throat and a wide mouth. They soon found that this creature was a kind of lizard and harmless. Its flesh is good for food.

They found also a root new to them which the Indians ate; it was the potato. In Cuba they saw the natives going about "with certain dried herbs which they rolled up in a leaf and lighting one end, put the other end in their mouths," and smoked. They called this roll "a tobacco."

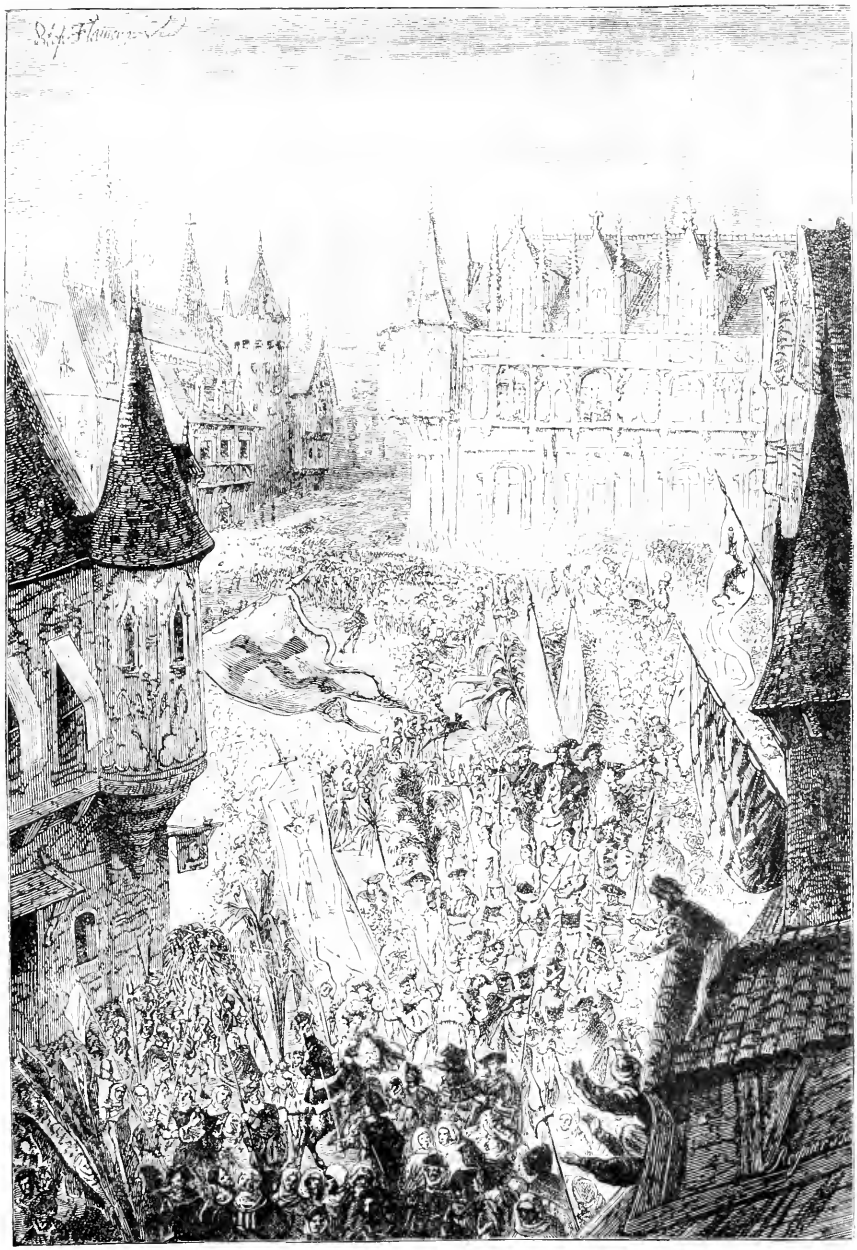
## HIS RETURN TO SPAIN.

January 4, 1493, Columbus set out on his return to Spain. He took with him nine Indians. He was two months crossing the Atlantic, and met with a fearful storm which lasted fourteen days. He feared the vessel might sink, and the king and queen of Spain might never hear of his great discovery. So he wrote an account of it on a strip of parchment, wrapped it in a waxed cloth, placed it in the centre of a cake of wax, put the whole into a barrel and threw it into the sea. He thought perhaps somebody might find it.

He put into the river Tagus in Portugal to wait for fair weather, and visited the queen of Portugal.

March 13, he sailed into the harbor of Palos. You remember that the *Santa Maria* was wrecked off the coast of Cuba. The *Pinta* had become separated from the *Niña* while crossing the Atlantic. So it was only the *Niña* that sailed into Palos on that joyful day almost four hundred years ago. The news of her arrival quickly flew over the town. The bells were rung, the shops were closed, and everybody left their business and their work, even the children left their play, to hasten to the wharves.

Columbus was at once ordered to go to the court at Barcelona. As he drew near that city, a great company on horseback came out to meet him. His entrance was a triumph. Such a brilliant and strange procession had never before been seen in Spain. For first of all came the dusky Indians (six of them) wearing feathers of gay tropical birds and ornaments of gold. The



COLUMBUS ENTERS IN TRIUMPH THE CITY OF BARCELONA.

sailors and ship-boys of the *Niña* carried poles and pike staffs, on the top of which were stuffed parrots, cocoanuts, bananas, huge

COLUMBUS TELLING THE STORY OF HIS VOYAGE TO THE QUEEN OF PORTUGAL.

calabashes or gourds, rare plants and the stuffed body of an iguana or big lizard. One of the prettiest things was the yellow ears of

the Indian corn. Coronets and bracelets of gold, baskets finely woven of grass, and banners were in the procession. Then came Columbus himself, on horseback, and around him were the proud

COLUMBUS TELLING DON PEREZ WHAT HE HAD SEEN AND DONE.

nobles of Spain. I wonder if he remembered then the time when he came to the door of the convent of La Rabida asking for bread and water.

The king and queen rose to receive him, which was a great honor. They listened to his story, and when he had finished they fell on their knees, all who were present did the same, and the royal choir chanted the *Te Deum Laudamus* (We praise thee, O God). Thus they gave to God the glory of the great discovery.

But I doubt if Columbus enjoyed anything more than he did the telling of all he had seen and done to his good and faithful friend Don Perez.

## HIS SECOND VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD.

September 25, 1493, Columbus set sail on his second voyage. This time he had three large ships and fourteen small ones. On his first voyage, you remember, nobody was willing to go. But now so many were eager to go that he had in all fifteen hundred.

His two boys, Diego and Ferdinand, came to see Columbus off, "proud of the glory of their father."

The vessels stopped at the Canary Islands, where calves, goats, sheep and pigs were bought to stock the island of Hispaniola.

November 2, the fleet arrived at the Antilles. On the 4th they landed on Gaudaloupe, and here the Spaniards first tasted the delicious pine-apple. The houses on this island were square. They were woven of reeds and thatched with palm leaves, and each had a little portico. The people on this island were the warlike Caribs. Their arrows were pointed with the bones of fishes, and were poisoned. The women fought as well as the men. The children learned to use the bow and arrow very early.

November 22, the fleet arrived off Hispaniola (Hayti). Before Columbus went back to Spain from his first voyage, he had had a fort built from the wreck of the *Santa Maria*. He had called that fort La Navidad, and had left a number of Spaniards in it. November 27, he arrived opposite the harbor of La Navidad, but there was no sign of life. Not a Spaniard was to be seen. The next day he landed and found the fort burned. All around lay

BARTHOLOMEW COLOMBUS.

broken chests, torn clothes, and household things. He soon learned the truth.

In the interior of the island lived a warlike Carib chief named Caonabo — Caonabo means "The Lord of the Golden House." He was so called because he lived in the golden mountain of Cibao. After Columbus went away the Spaniards that he had left in the fort treated the natives badly. They lived wicked lives; they grew careless and would not obey their commander. They often left the fort unguarded. One night all but ten were away. Caonabo came with his warriors, killed the ten, destroyed the fort, and set fire to the houses where the other white men were sleeping. Afterwards Caonabo was taken prisoner; and this is how it was done.

A CARIB HOUSE.

Columbus had tried in vain to take him in battle, and at last Alonzo de Ojeda said he would take him alive by a trick. He invited Caonabo to visit Isabella, the town Columbus had founded. He told Caonabo he would give him the bell on the chapel of Isabella. This bell was a great wonder to the Indians. When they heard it ring and saw the Spaniards hurrying to the service, they thought the bell "talked" and called them.

So Caonabo called his warriors together and started for Isabella. They halted one day near the river Yagui, and Ojeda showed to Caonabo a set of manacles — irons to hold the hands together — such as are put upon prisoners. They were of steel,

and polished till they shone like silver. Ojeda told Caonabo that these were worn by the king and queen of Spain at festivals — that they came from the skies.

"Go, Caonabo," he said, "and bathe in the river, then I will put these on your wrists, and you shall mount my horse and ride like a king before your people." For these Indians thought the horses of the Spaniards were wonderful creatures. They at first thought the man and the horse made one animal.

So Caonabo was greatly pleased at Ojeda's offer. He bathed, and then Ojeda helped him to get upon his horse, and then put on the manacles. And there was Caonabo a prisoner! For he could not help himself; and Ojeda took the bridle of his horse, and he and his men dashed away upon their horses, and carried Caonabo with them. Columbus afterwards took him to Spain, but he died on the voyage. And that was the end of the brave, proud Caonabo, who died as many a white man has done, for his people and his country.

In October, Bartholomew Columbus arrived at Isabella, and glad enough was Columbus to see him. For Columbus was not having an easy time. The Spaniards had hoped and expected to find gold so plenty that they could pick it up like stones. And when they did not they were bitterly disappointed. They said Columbus was to blame. (We always have to find fault with somebody, you know, when things don't turn out to suit us.) They sent lying reports home about him. They did everything they could to harm him. Many of them were bad men and lived bad lives. So he was glad to have near him so good, so brave, so loving, so active, so generous a man as was this brother; and when he went back a second time to Spain he left Bartholomew in command of the island of Hispaniola.

## STORY OF THE EGG. THE THIRD VOYAGE.

I must go back a little in this chapter to tell you a pretty story about Columbus, a story that everybody likes, and likes to tell.

When Columbus returned from his first voyage, you remember, he was feasted and made much of. And, among others, Gonzalvez de Mendoza, the grand Cardinal of Spain, gave him a splendid banquet. Mendoza was the first subject in the Spanish kingdom, and was a noble and princely man. He gave to Columbus the most honorable place at his table, and served him as he would have served the king himself.

He did not envy Columbus his good fortune in discovering the New World. Not a bit. He was glad to do him honor.

But there were men who did envy Columbus. And because they envied him they would like to have injured him. Some of these men were at the banquet that day. And one of them it was who said to Columbus:

"If *you* had not discovered the New World, do you not think there are plenty of men in Spain who could have done it?" It was the same as if he had said, "It was nothing to discover the New World. It was easy enough just to sail West till you came to it. You are making a great fuss about nothing."

Columbus did not reply to this in words. But he took an egg and asked this man to make it stand up on one end. The man tried, but could not make it stand up. Then another tried, and another, and another, till all had tried, and none could do it.

Then Columbus took the egg and struck one end lightly upon the table, so as to break it a little, and left it standing.

I do not suppose he said anything. But they all knew what he meant — that it is easy to do a thing after you know how it is done. And now that he had shown the way to the New World, it was easy enough for other men to follow.

This story is told by an Italian, Benzoni, in his history printed in 1572.

You have read that the proud Caonabo died while on the passage to Spain. But Columbus had also taken with him Caonabo's brother and his nephew, the latter a boy of ten. These two he carried about with him in Spain wherever he went. He presented them to Ferdinand and Isabella. Whenever they passed through a great city, he put a heavy gold collar and chain round the neck of Caonabo's brother, because he came from the "Golden House" of Cibao.

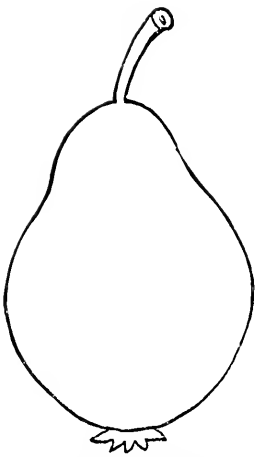
COLUMBUS PRESENTING THE BROTHER OF CAONABO TO FERDINAND AND ISABELLA.

May 30, 1498. Columbus set sail on his third voyage to the New World. This time he sailed a little south of West and came into what are called the "calm latitudes." These lie on the equator. And here the wind fell, and they had a calm which lasted eight days. The air was hot "like a furnace," the "tar

about the ships melted; the seams of the ships opened; the salt meat was spoiled: the wheat was parched as if with fire"; the hoops shrunk from the water casks, and some of them burst. In this way they lost much of their water, and on July 31 there was but one cask of water on each ship. Columbus began to feel anxious; he feared they might get out of water before they reached land. But that very day at noon, a sailor saw three mountain tops rising above the horizon. These proved to be an island with three mountains upon it. So Columbus named it La Trinidad, which means the Trinity, or three. They went on shore and found a clear brook where they filled their casks.

HUGE WAVE AT THE MOUTH OF THE ORINOCO.

Trinidad is near the mouth of the Orinoco River. This river brought down a vast body of water into the ocean and the current was strong there, and the waves big. One night, when Columbus was on deck, he heard a loud roar in the south. He looked, and saw a great wave coming high as the ship itself. It was rolling toward the ship with a noise like thunder. It was white with foam. He thought it would roll over the ship and destroy it. But instead of that, the ship was lifted up upon it like a cork, and rode there in safety. But the crew were greatly terrified.



COLUMBUS THOUGHT THE EARTH WAS SHAPED LIKE A PEAR.

Columbus by this time had changed his mind about the shape of the earth. Instead of being round, he now thought it was shaped like a pear, one part of it being higher than the rest, and tapering up toward the sky. And he now thought he had come to that part of the earth which was higher than the rest. For the sky was very clear and blue here, and the air cool and sweet. The coast opposite to La Trinidad was a green and fruitful land; the mornings and evenings were cool and fresh, and even at noon the sun was not very hot.

Now, in this same latitude in Africa, he knew it was hot and dry, and the land was unfruitful. In Africa, too, the people were black, and coarse in manner.

But here the natives were fair, fairer even than in Cuba. They had long hair, and were graceful and bright. So this land, he thought, must be much higher than that in the same latitude in Africa. The great river Orinoco, too, carried its fresh waters far out into the ocean. It ran hard and fast, as though it ran down hill. Yes, he was sure now that he had come to that part of the earth that tapered up toward the sky. And that if he kept sailing on, by and by he would come to the top, and

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there he would find the Garden of Eden, which we read about in the Bible! For up near the stem of the pear, he thought the Garden of Eden was placed.

We know he was mistaken but so he thought; and he wrote to the king and queen of Spain all about what he thought, and perhaps they thought so too. For many wise men of that day supposed the Garden of Eden was to be found on some part of the earth higher than the rest.

After Columbus set sail upon his third voyage, his enemies were very busy in Spain. They tried to turn the king and queen against him. They said he made his discoveries only for his own profit; that he treated those who went with him badly; that he deceived the king and queen about the countries he had found: they said everything that bad men can say about one whom they wish to injure.

COLUMBUS RETURNING TO SPAIN IN CHAINS.

So finally the king and queen sent Boabdilla out to see about things. If Boabdilla found that Columbus had done wrong, he was to send him home and be governor in his place.

"But," they said to Boabdilla, "inquire very carefully, and do nothing hastily."

But Boabdilla did not inquire at all. He at once ordered Columbus to be put in chains. Nobody would do it at first. Put chains upon Columbus, the great discoverer! The good, true, noble man! But at last one of his own servants put the man-

acles on his wrists, and then he was sent home to Spain in chains.

But when he arrived there, Queen Isabella was very angry; and she ordered the chains to be taken off, and Columbus to be brought to her.

When he entered her presence, worn with sorrow and age, mournful, but still carrying himself nobly, the good and tender-hearted queen burst into tears.

Columbus again obtained leave to make another voyage to the New World. He sailed May 9, 1502. About three weeks after his return from that voyage Queen Isabella died. And by her death Columbus lost his best friend.

He died at Valladolid, Spain, May 20, 1506, aged seventy years.

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